

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend Claims 1, 4, 5, 9 and 10, and add new Claim 12 to read as follows. Note that all the claims currently pending in this application, including those not presently being amended, have been reproduced below.

1. (Currently amended) A recording apparatus for recording on recording sheets by recording means, said recording apparatus comprising:
- a transporting roller for transporting the recording sheets, said transporting roller being positioned upstream of the recording means relative to the transporting direction;
  - a proximal discharging roller for transporting the recording sheets, said proximal discharging roller being positioned downstream of the recording means relative to the transporting direction and having deviations from a nominal circumference within a first range; and
  - a distal discharging roller disposed downstream of said proximal discharging roller relative to the transporting direction, said distal discharging roller having deviations from a nominal circumference within a second range and being of higher precision than said proximal discharging roller in that the second range is less than the first range.
2. (Previously amended) A recording apparatus according to Claim 1, said proximal discharging roller and said distal discharging roller each comprising:

a shaft serving as a center of rotation; and  
a rubber roller portion for integrally rotating with said shaft to transport the  
recording sheets,

wherein the shaft of said distal discharging roller is formed of metal, and the  
shaft of said proximal discharging roller is formed of resin.

3. (Previously amended) A recording apparatus according to Claim 2,  
wherein said distal discharging roller is formed by polishing.

4. (Currently amended) A recording apparatus according to any one of  
Claims Claim 1, through 3; further comprising slave rollers each rotating synchronously  
with said proximal and distal discharging rollers, wherein the pressing force of a distal  
slave roller rotating synchronously with said distal discharging roller is greater than that of  
a proximal slave roller rotating synchronously with said proximal discharging roller.

5. (Currently amended) A recording apparatus according to any one of  
Claims Claim 1, through 3; further comprising load torque providing means for providing  
load torque to said distal discharging roller.

6. (Previously amended) A recording apparatus according to Claim 5,  
wherein said load torque providing means comprises a leaf spring and friction pad for  
pressing against the shaft of said distal discharging roller.

7. (Previously amended) A recording apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein said load torque providing means comprises a clutch spring wound onto said shaft of said distal discharging roller.

8. (Previously amended) A recording apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein said load torque providing means comprises a compression coil spring for pressing against a gear on the axis of said distal discharging roller.

9. (Currently amended) A recording apparatus according to ~~any one of~~ Claims Claim 1, ~~through 3~~; wherein the friction coefficient between said distal discharging roller and the recording sheets is greater than the friction coefficient between said proximal discharging roller and the recording sheets.

10. (Currently amended) A recording apparatus according to ~~any one of~~ Claims Claim 1, ~~through 3~~; wherein said recording means comprises a recording head which records on the recording sheets by discharging ink.

11. (Previously amended) A recording apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein said recording head applies electricity to electro-thermal converters in accordance with signals, and discharges the ink using thermal energy generated by said electro-thermal converters.

12 (New) A method of manufacturing a recording apparatus for recording on recording sheets by recording means, said method comprising the steps of:  
forming a transporting roller for transporting the recording sheets, and positioning the transporting roller upstream of the recording means relative to the transporting direction;  
forming a proximal discharging roller for transporting the recording sheets, and positioning the proximal discharging roller downstream of the recording means relative to the transporting direction; and  
forming a distal discharging roller in a process of higher precision than that of a process for forming the proximal discharge roller, and positioning the distal discharging roller downstream of the proximal discharging roller relative to the transporting direction.